

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Petra Perner  
Serial No: 10/574,176  
International Filing Date: 10/1/2004  
Title: Methods for Automatically Identifying Microorganisms  
Collected on a Carrier

**Commissioner for Patents**  
**Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the first office action, please amend the instant application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please substitute the attached amended paragraphs of pages 1 and 3-5 for the corresponding paragraphs of the literal translation filed concurrently.

Please add the attached Abstract of the Disclosure.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1 through 9 of the concurrently filed literal translation are cancelled.

Please add the attached new claims 10-18 to the specification.